



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frank Cistone et al.

Group Art Unit: 1771

Serial No.: 10/087,212

Examiner:

Filed: February 28, 2002

Lynda Salvatore

For: MELT PROCESSABLE
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is submitted in response to an office action having no paper designation number but dated October 2, 2003 wherein the examiner required restriction of the subject matter disclosed in the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants, through their undersigned attorney, hereby traverse the restriction requirement in all of its respects, request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction and further request a prompt and

thorough examination of all of the claims pending in the application, on their merits.

Applicant notes that applicants are amending the claims pending in the application in this paper. Specifically, applicants have cancelled claims 22 through 28, 31 through 34 and 39 through 47. Additionally, applicants have added new claims 55 through 77 to the application.

Without prejudice to the foregoing traverse and request for reconsideration and without prejudice to applicants' right to petition against the restriction requirement, in compliance with the requirement set forth in the official action applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group 2, namely claims 12 through 21, 29, 30 and 48 through 51, and any of the claims newly added to the application which the examiner believes would also fall into Group 2, which the Examiner has characterized as being directed to non-woven fabric classified in class 442, subclasses 327+.

Submitted herewith in support of the traverse and request for reconsideration of the restriction requirement please find an unexecuted declaration of Dr. Frank Cistone, one of the inventors of record on the instant application. Dr. Cistone's declaration and the facts and opinions set forth therein is discussed further hereinbelow. An executed copy of Dr. Cistone's declaration will be submitted shortly.